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NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS IN VALLEY COUNTY, MONTANA

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VALLEY RESOURCE AREA

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National Resource Lands in Valley County, Montana: Social and Economic Analysis is designed to provide BLM personnel and the public with documentation of the social and economic effects of BLM management in Valley County. The BLM land use planning process requires that local level managers of the public lands directly consider such factors in the development of land use plans. The procedures for accomplishing this analysis are located in BLM Manual 1607 and this document is part of the planning information used in preparing a Management Framework Plan on the Valley Planning Area.

BLM management activities in Valley County have measurable impacts on the local economy. However, as this analysis reveals, different activities (grazing, wildlife, . . .) have different effects within the county and its communities. In addition, this publication documents the attitudes and positions of persons, involved organizations, and local government regarding management of the public lands in Valley County. It is important that the resource manager give consideration to these noneconomic factors in his daily and long-term decisionmaking process.

For the public, this publication should serve in generating additional, improved understanding of the management issues within the Valley Planning Area. Conflicts between land uses cannot be entirely resolved but decisions must be made regarding the use of public lands. In the past, BLM managers have primarily focused on the existing and potential uses of the resource base. This is a fundamental aspect of resource management. BLM managers are also, however, required to examine the socio-economic affects of planning and managerial decisions.

National Resource Lands in Valley County, Montana: Social and Economic Analysis should, therefore, assist both the public and the manager in better understanding resource uses and in developing future directions in public land uses in Valley County. Since resource managers rely on public involvement for guidance and feedback regarding management of the

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public lands, a solid information base is essential and assists both the manager and the public in understanding problems and issues within the area.

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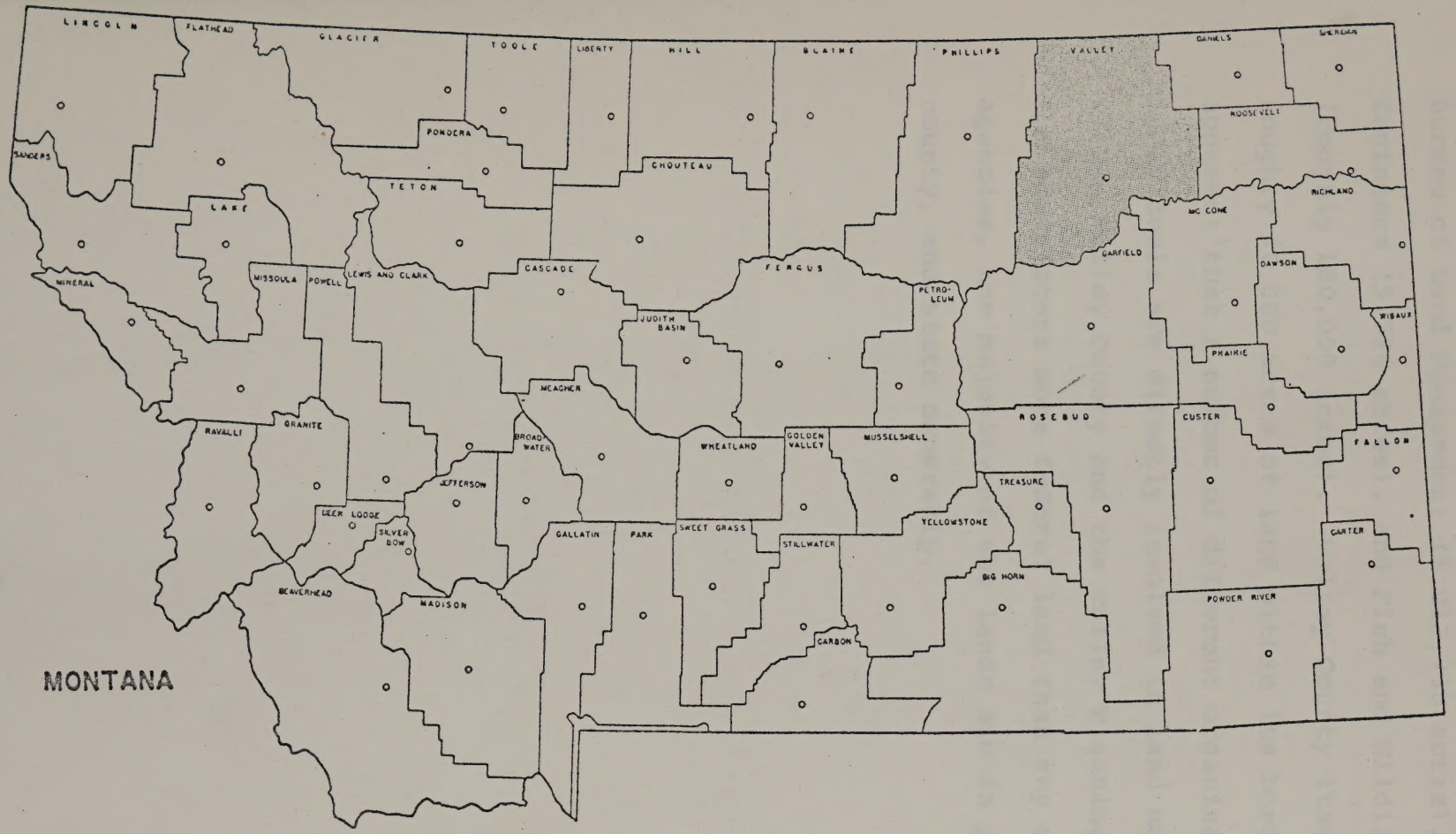
The Setting

In 1970, Valley County had a population of 11,417 persons. The economic base is built primarily upon agriculture. Twenty-three percent of Valley County's employment in 1970 was in agriculture. Retail trade and service sectors of the local economy followed agriculture in the amount of direct employment generated, with 17 and 13 percent, respectively.

Glasgow, the county seat, is the major population center of Valley County and the Valley Planning Area. Glasgow had 4,700 residents in 1970. Other communities in Valley County (Fort Peck, Richland, Nashua, Hinsdale, and others) are quite small in terms of population.

The dominant resource development project in the Valley County area is the Fort Peck Dam and Reservoir on the Missouri River. Fort Peck Reservoir forms virtually the entire southern boundary of Valley County.

Table 1 portrays patterns of land ownership in Valley County. It is evident that a number of different federal agencies, as well as individual landowners, are involved in the county's land use. State lands also constitute a substantial share of the total acreage in Valley County. Federal government agencies administer just over 30 percent of the total land area of the county. Included are the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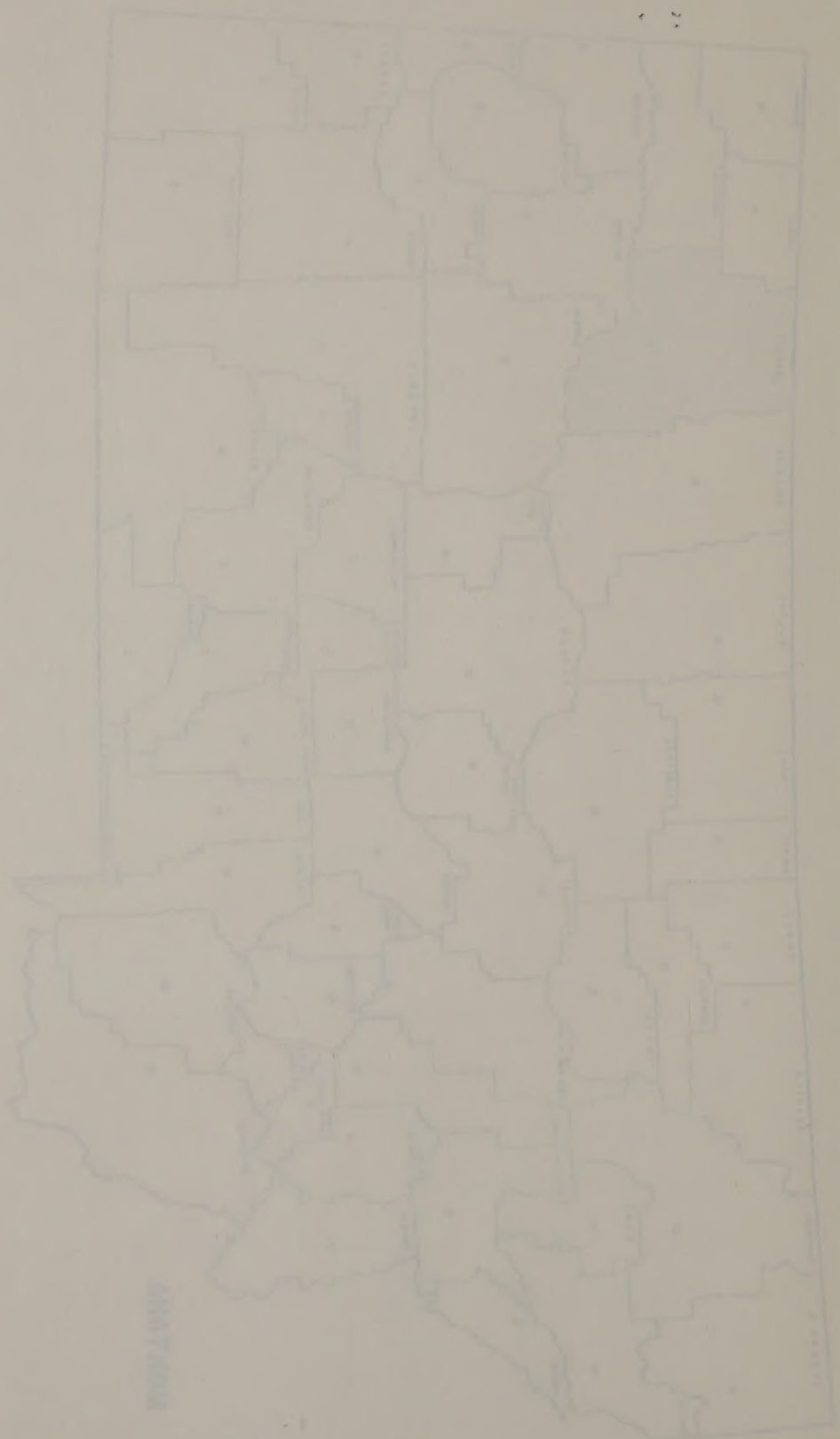
VALLEY
DANIELS
SHERIDAN
ROOSEVELT
PONDERA
SANDERS
TETON
CHOUTEAU
LAKE
RICHLAND
MC CONE
GARFIELD
DAWSON
MINERAL
MISSOULA
POWELL
LEWIS AND CLARK
CASCADE
FERGUS
PETRO-LEUM
JUDITH BASIN
WIBAUX
PRAIRIE
MEAGHER
ROSEBUD
CUSTER
RAVALLI
GRANITE
BROAD WATER
WHEATLAND
GOLDEN VALLEY
MUSSELSHELL
FALLON
JEFFERSON
TREASURE
DEER LODGE
SILVER BOW
GALLATIN
PARK
SWEET GRASS
YELLOWSTONE
CARTER
STILLWATER
BEAVERHEAD
MADISON
BIG HORN
POWDER RIVER
CARBON

MONTANA



Bureau of Land Management (1,012,738 acres), Corps of Engineers (5,786 acres), and Fish and Wildlife Service (roughly 180,000 acres). Valley County itself owns roughly 40,000 acres of land within its borders. It is apparent that a number of different organizations and individuals are directly involved in land management within Valley County and the Valley Planning Area. While BLM administers more federal land than any of the other agencies, the majority of the lands are in private, tribal, county, and state ownership.

Table 1

Land Ownership in Acres
Valley Planning Area - Valley County

		% of Planning Area
Valley Planning Area		
Private, County, Municipal	1,005,684	44.5
State	229,930	10.1
Federal	1,024,804	45.3
Bureau of Land Management	1,012,738	44.8
Bureau of Reclamation	2,720	.1
Corps of Engineers	5,786	.2
General Services Administration	3,560	.2
Valley County (not included in the Planning Area)		
Ft. Peck Indian Reservation	827,978	
Russell Game Range	178,164	
Valley County Total	3,266,560	

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Each of the resource activities (grazing, wildlife, minerals, etc.) taking place on the public lands in the Valley Planning Area have economic effects. Some of these effects are minor and are difficult to evaluate or estimate with confidence. However, some activities are quite significant in contributing to the economy of Valley County.

This section documents BLM estimates of the significance of different uses of the public lands in Valley County. Available information permitted more elaborate analysis in some activities than in others. For this reason, the analysis of some resource activities is extensive. In selected other activities, the information presented is descriptive and less quantified.

Range

Livestock grazing is an important economic activity within Valley County. Table 2 shows that approximately 450 persons are directly employed within the livestock industry. It is estimated that 416 of these persons are directly dependent upon livestock employment in the Planning Area (Valley County less the Russell Game Range and Fort Peck Indian Reservation).

BLM authorizes 154,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) on the National Resource Lands (NRL) in the Valley Planning Area. This is 31% of the estimated total of 498,000 AUMs in the Planning Area.

Since 31% of the AUMs are generated by forage on public lands, it is estimated that 128 persons are directly dependent upon the public range for employment. These 128 jobs generate an estimated 205 additional jobs in the Valley County economy. Together, direct employment and indirect employment based on NRL livestock forage on public lands in the Valley Planning Area is estimated at 333. Assuming that these jobs are held by heads of households, then approximately 1,100 persons in Valley County are directly and indirectly dependent on BLM administered forage in the Planning Area.

Seasonality of use is also an important factor in assessing the economic importance of livestock grazing on BLM administered lands. It is estimated that 71% of the April-October forage is provided by the public lands in the Planning Area.

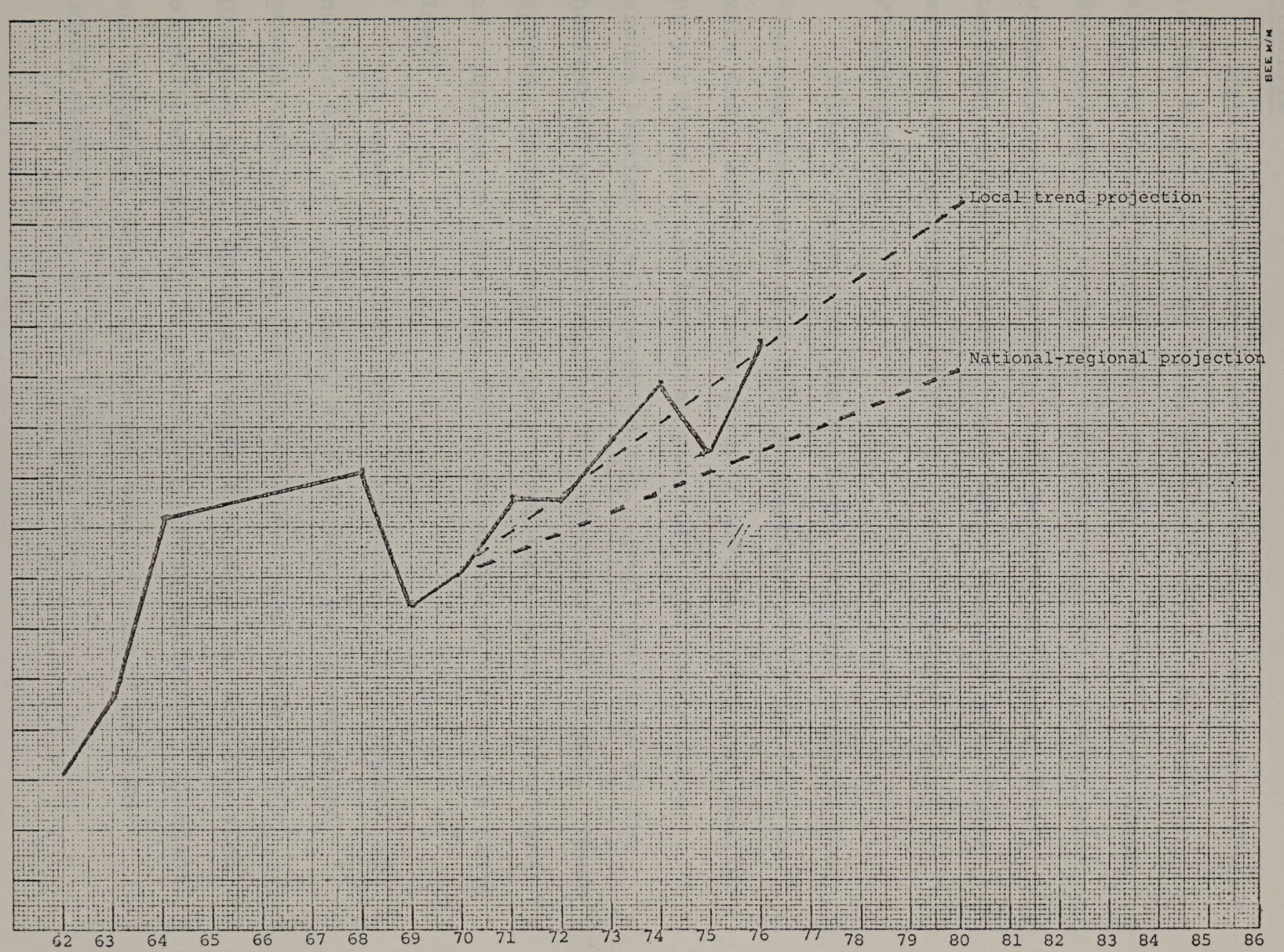
TABLE 2

LOCAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING
IN THE VALLEY PLANNING UNIT

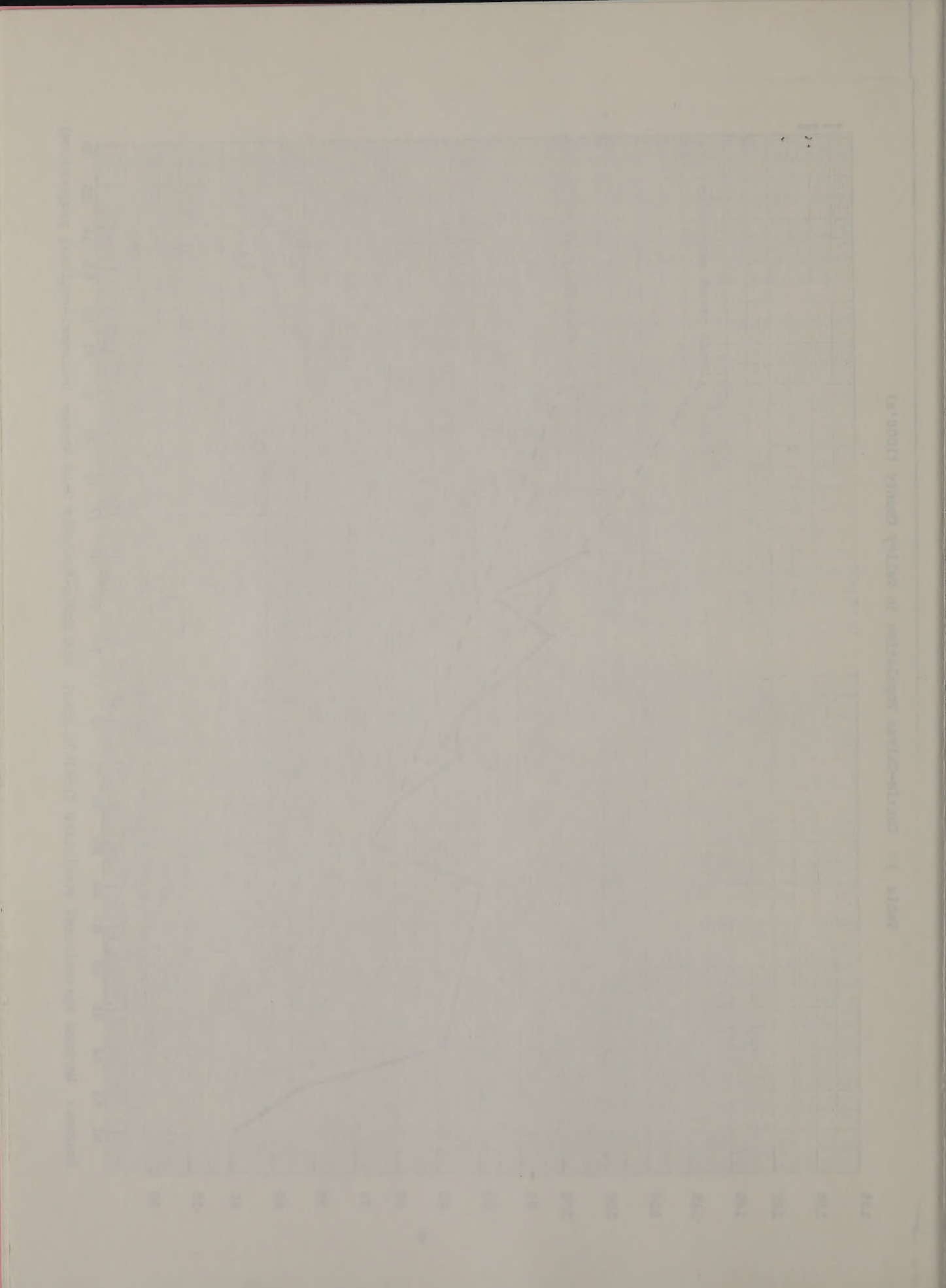
920	1970 agricultural employment Valley County
x .502	Proportion of 1969 agricultural sales in livestock
462	Estimated livestock employment
- .10	Estimated Russell Game Range/Fort Peck Indian Reservation livestock employment percentage
416	Estimated Planning Area livestock-based employment
x .3088	Proportion of total Planning Area AUMs on NRL
128	Estimated direct employment dependence on NRL range
x 1.6	Employment multiplier
205	Total indirect employment dependence on NRL range program
205	Indirect employment
+ 128	Direct employment
333	Total employment dependence on NRL range activities
x 3.28	1970 average family size, Valley County
1092	Total population dependence on Valley Planning Area range activity

Table 3 displays past, present, and projected future numbers of cattle in Valley County. Generally, an upward trend is evident during the 1962-1976 period. National trends of cattle populations between 1970 and 1980, applied to Valley County, project moderately increasing numbers. Locally, the number of cattle and calves has been higher than the national projections during the 1970-1976 period. If these trends persist through 1980, approximately 115,000 cattle-calves would be grazed in Valley County. Numerous factors affect cattle numbers (market prices, grain prices, etc.), but it appears that larger numbers of cattle will be grazed in Valley County during the next several years.

Table 3: Cattle-Calves Population in Valley County (1000's)



Sources: Montana Agricultural Statistics (1962-76 data) BLM Socio-Economic Data System (national-regional projections)



Wildlife

National Resource Lands are reasonably well consolidated in the Valley Planning Area, particularly in the southern areas of Valley County which border the Russell Game Range. BLM-administered lands are habitat areas for a number of wildlife species. In turn, this habitat and the wildlife populations which inhabit these lands generate significant numbers of hunter days in Valley County and the Valley Planning Area.

Table 4 shows that the National Resource Lands in the Planning Area make up a high proportion of the habitat for mule deer, antelope, sage grouse, and elk. Somewhat smaller proportions of the hungarian partridge and sharptailed grouse habitat are located on NRL. Small portions of the habitat of white-tailed deer and pheasant are on NRL. These species typically follow intensive, cultivated agriculture in contrast to other species whose dominant habitat is range land.

In terms of hunter days, a relatively large number of hunter days for mule deer, sage grouse, and sharptailed grouse take place on the National Resource Lands in the planning area. Antelope, white-tail deer and elk are also significant species in terms of hunting activity. Pheasant and hungarian partridge are not heavily hunted on BLM-administered land in the planning area.

TABLE 4

LOCAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF WILDLIFE HUNTING
IN VALLEY PLANNING AREA

Species	% of Habitat on NRL	Hunter Days on NRL, 1976[1]	Expenditure/ Hunter Day	Estimated Expenditures
Antelope	66.13	582	41	$ 23,862
White-tailed deer	14.89	985	24	23,640
Mule deer	69.98	3,816	24	91,584
Elk	65.04	716[2]	43	30,788
Sage grouse	71.52	1,391	6	8,346
Sharptailed grouse	46.05	1,274	6	7,644
Ringnecked pheasant	12.50	167	6	1,002
Hungarian partridge	37.76	273	6	1,638
				$188,504

[1]Based on Montana Department of Fish and Game data
[2]Archery and gun

Expenditures (8 species only) = $188,504

	$188,504	Expenditures
x	1.157	Trade sector income multiplier
	$218,099	BLM wildlife generated expenditures

$218,099 - $33,194[a] = 6.6 jobs estimated

[a]This figure was developed in the following manner:

1975 Valley County retail trade sales = $30,041,000
1974 Valley County trade employment = 905

Therefore, $33,194 expenditures required to generate a single job in the trade sector.

Table 4 also shows the estimated expenditures by wildlife species due to hunting activity. Collectively, it is estimated that roughly $200,000 in local expenditures are due to hunting on NRL in the Valley Planning Area. These expenditures generate an estimated 6-7 jobs in the local economy.

Table 5 displays the number of hunter days by species from 1971 through 1975. It also displays the Montana Department of Fish and Game's Strategic Plan 1980 regional objectives as far as the provision of hunter days in the planning area on National Resource Lands. Antelope and hungarian partridge are projected to contribute fewer hunter days in 1980 than in the 1971 through 1975 period. Significant growth is projected for the other species (mule deer, white-tail deer, elk, sage grouse, sharptailed grouse, and pheasant). For each of these eight species, regional changes projected by the Montana Department of Fish and Game have been prorated to the National Resource Lands in the Valley Planning Area.

Tables 6 through 11 contain the same information that is displayed in Table 5. However, graphics have been used to portray past trends and future projections in order to more clearly portray and simplify the interpretation of this information.

TABLE 5

HUNTER DAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NRL - VALLEY PLANNING AREA

	1971[1]	1972[1]	1973[1]	1974[1]	1975[1]	1975-80 % Change Projected[2]	1980[2]
Antelope	578	819	706	346	440	-10.1	520
Mule deer	2642	3417	4061	5099	3783	35.0	5130
White-tailed deer	694	911	1089	1243	989	44.2	1420
Elk			928	1521	832	35.4	3869
Sage grouse	1338	1376	1431	1109	1700	31.5	1828
Sharptailed grouse	997	1145	1300	1278	1650	35.5	1726
Hungarian partridge	266	279	424	509	667	-13.4	372
Pheasant	103	123	203	110	298	28.6	215

[1]Prorated to Valley Planning Area from Montana Department of Fish and Game

[2]Based on Montana Fish and Game's Strategic Plan Regional objectives and 71-75 averages

TABLE 6 : WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING DAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NRL IN VALLEY PLANNING AREA

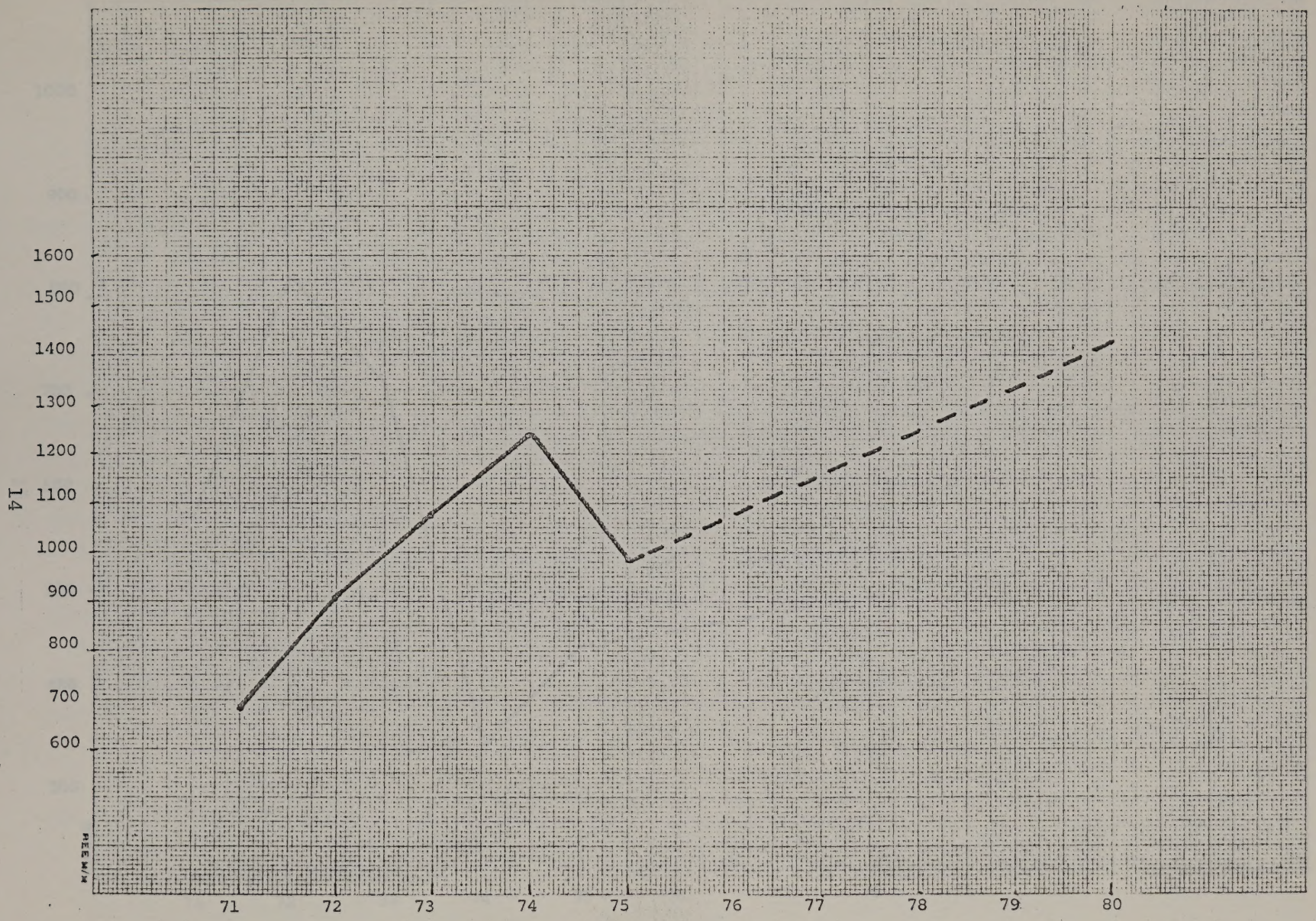


TABLE 7 : ANTELOPE HUNTING DAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NRL IN VALLEY PLANNING AREA

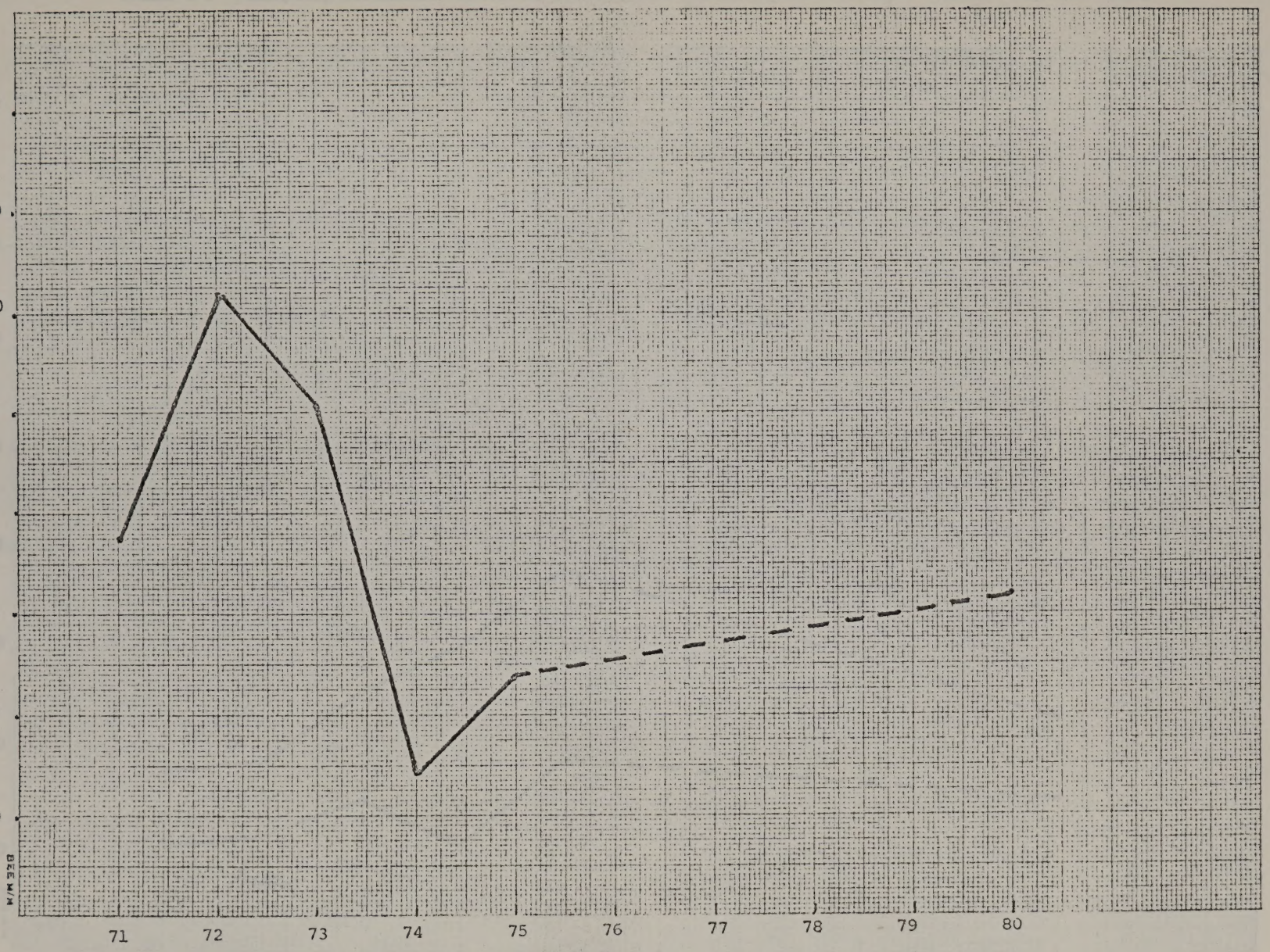
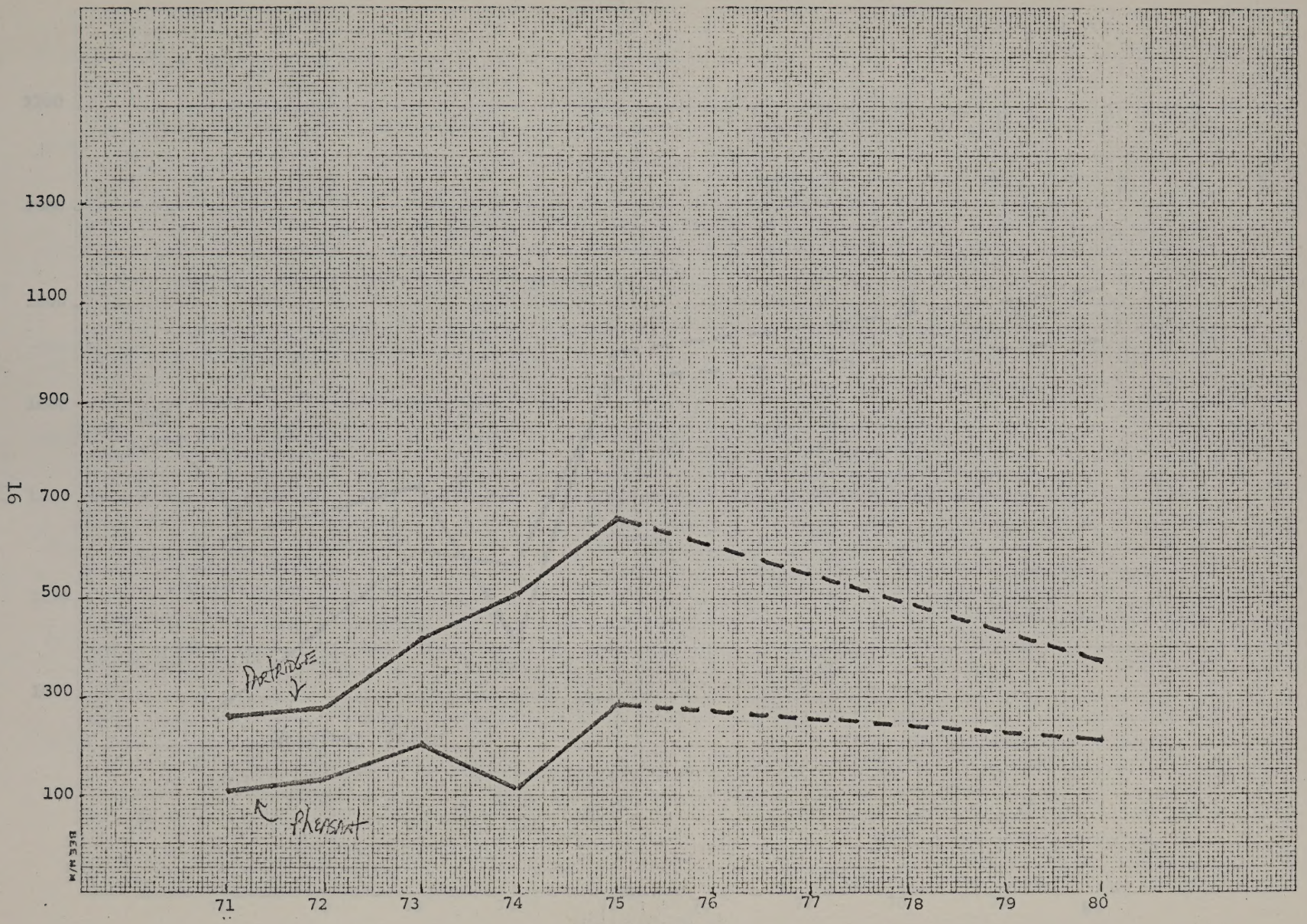


TABLE 8 : PHEASANT, HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE HUNTING DAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NRL IN VALLEY PLANNING AREA



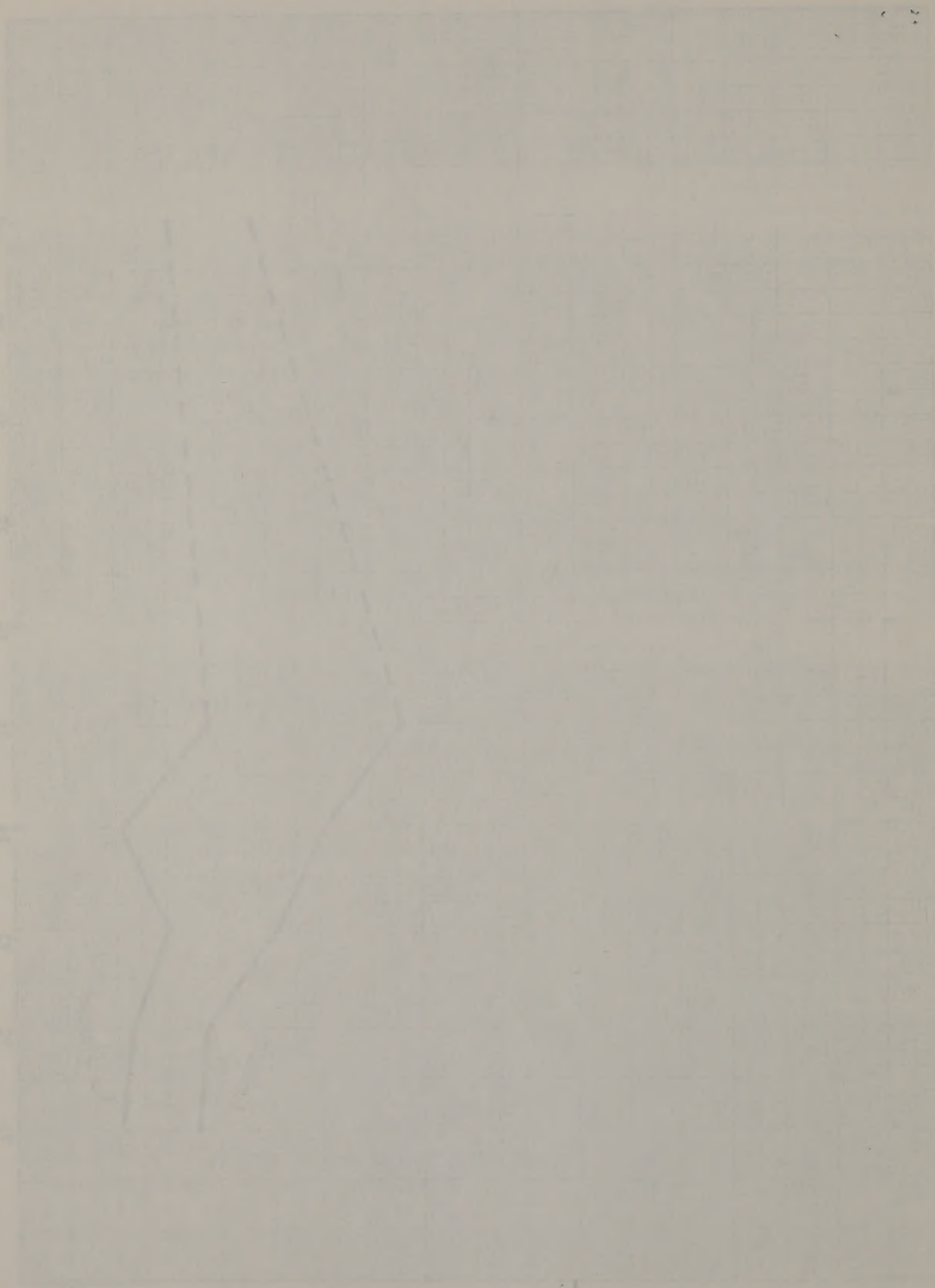
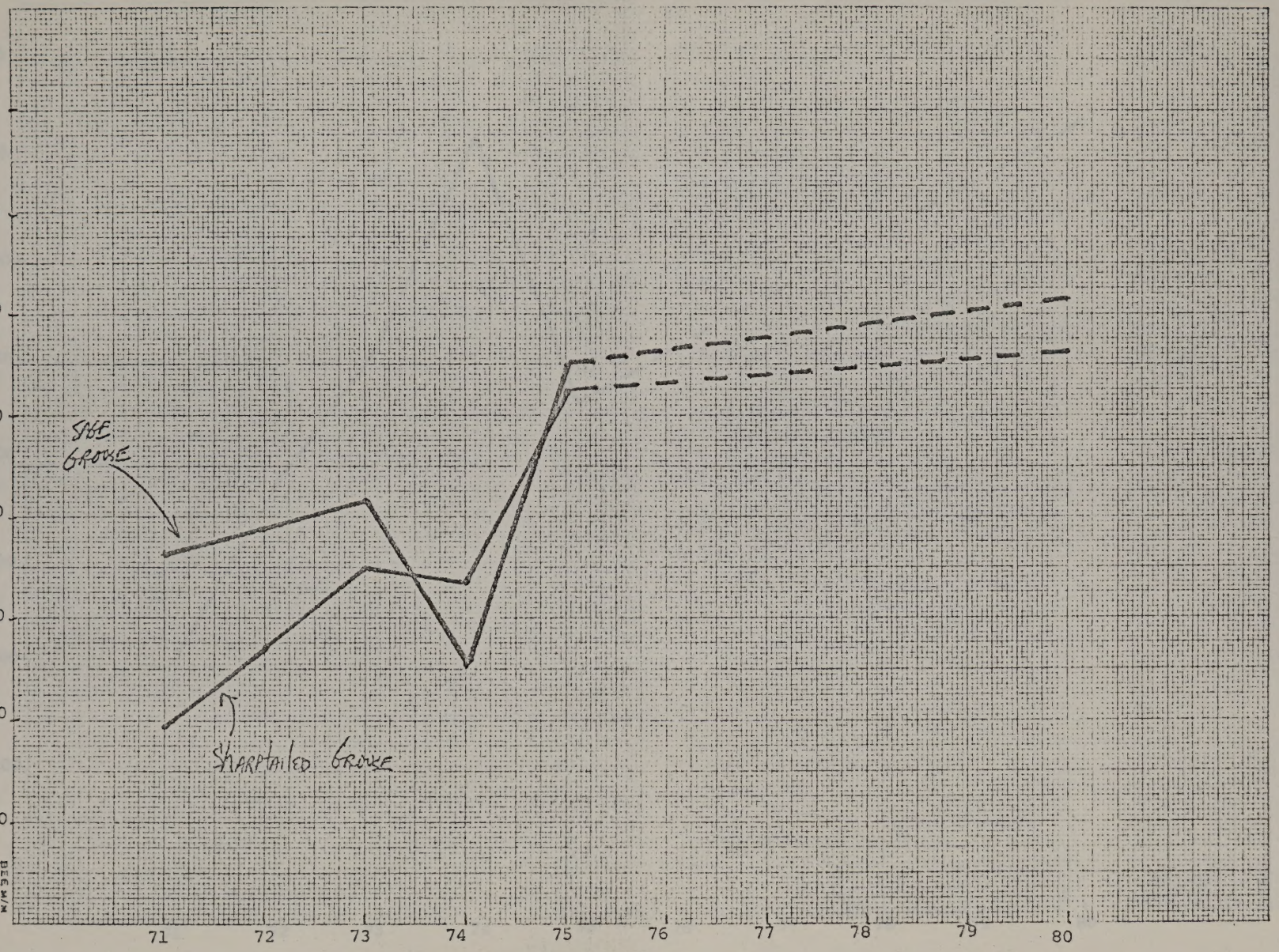


TABLE 9 : SAGE GROUSE, SHARPTAILED GROUSE HUNTING DAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NRL IN VALLEY PLANNING AREA



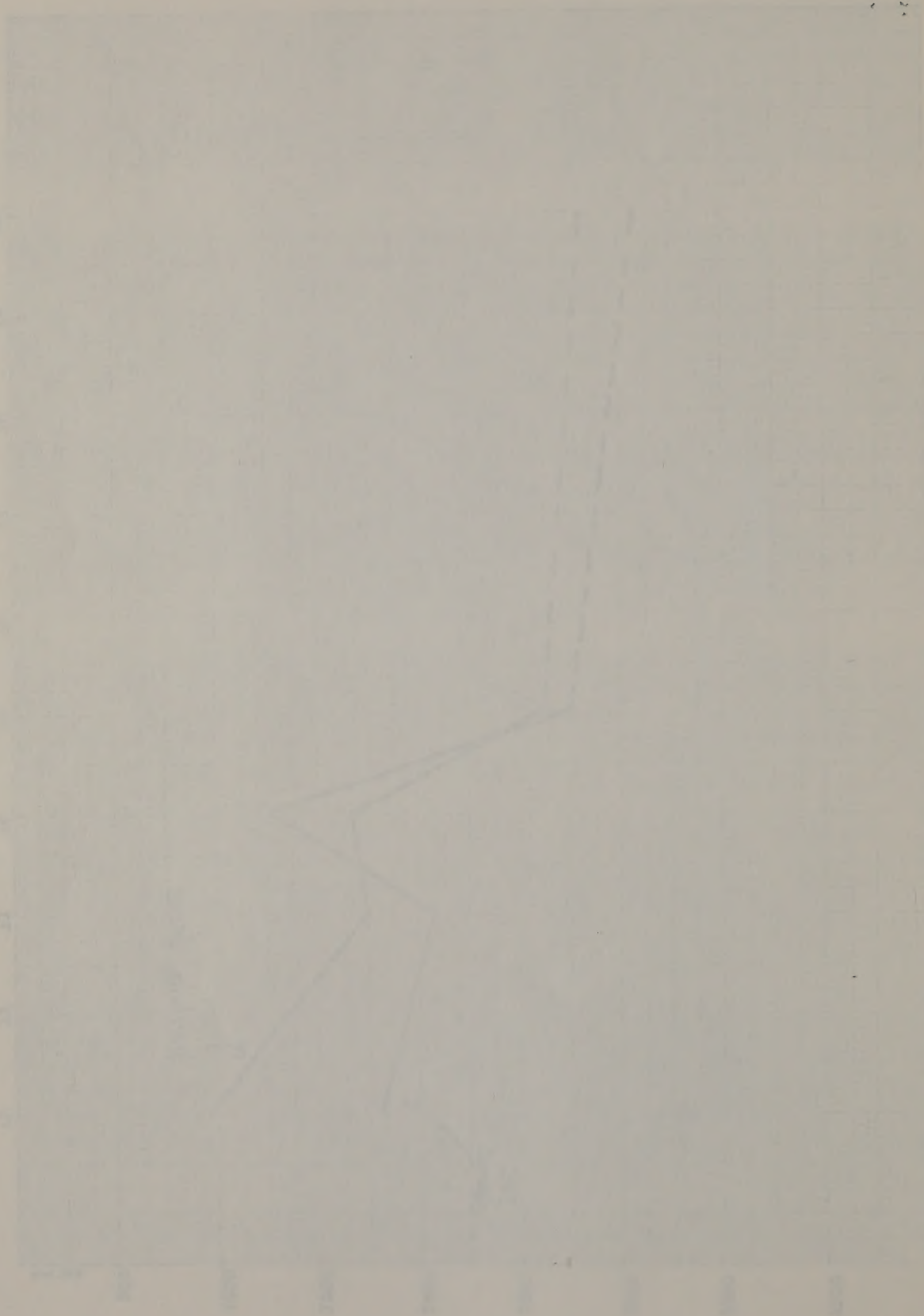


TABLE 10: MULE DEER HUNTING DAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NRL IN VALLEY PLANNING AREA

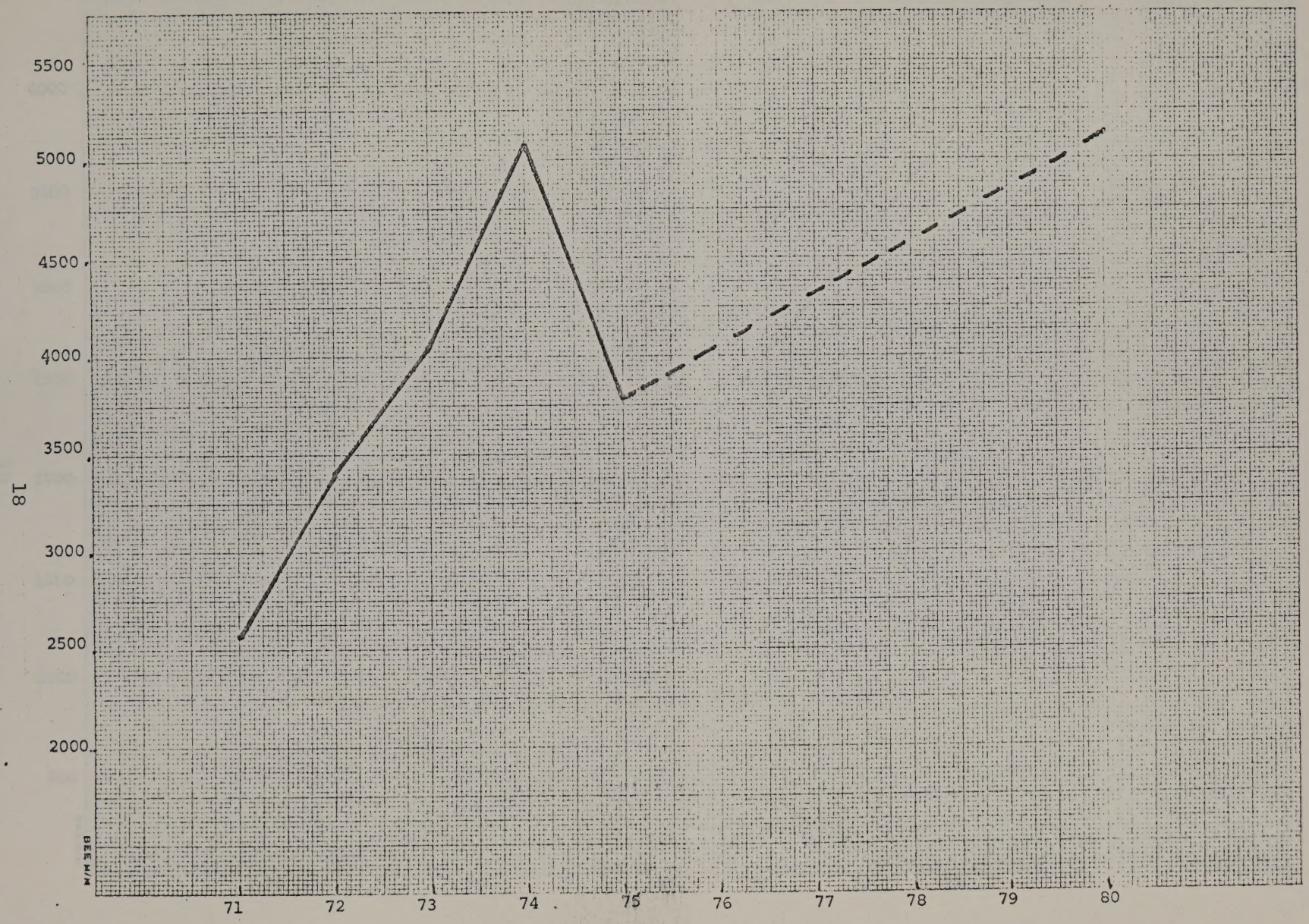
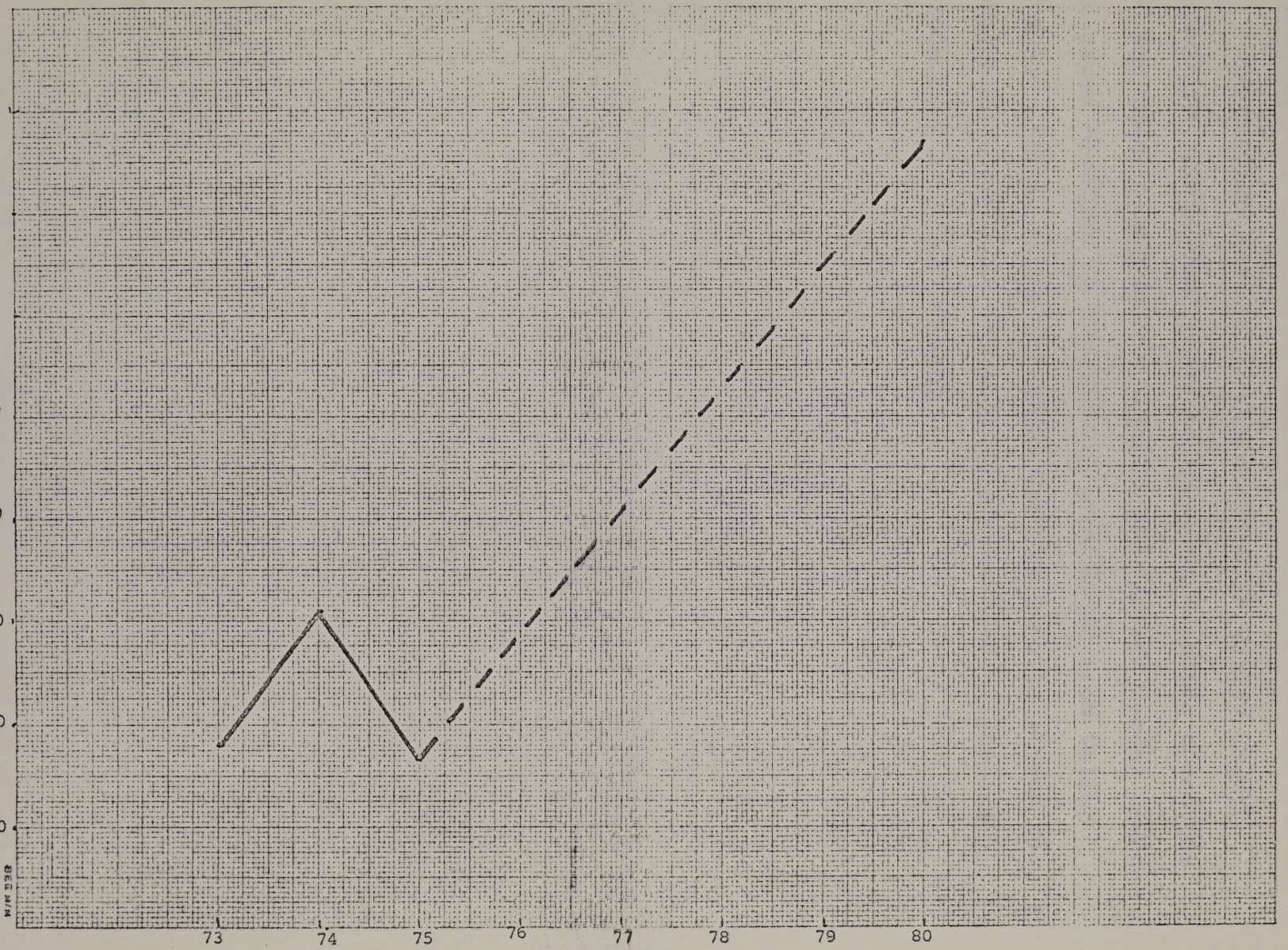


TABLE 11: ELK HUNTING DAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NRL IN VALLEY PLANNING AREA

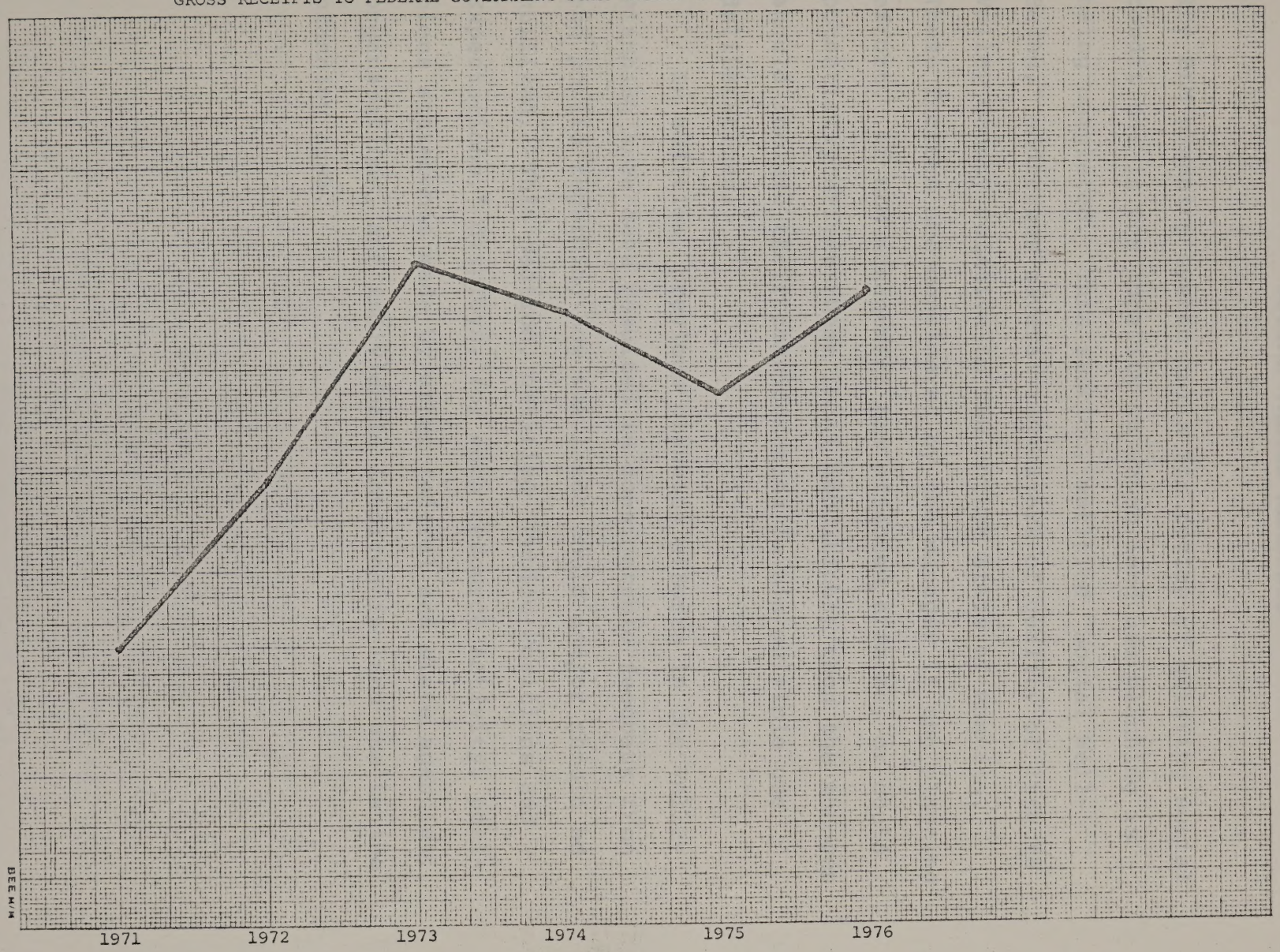


Minerals

Oil and gas exploration and production in Valley County result in substantial payments by private sector operators to the federal government. Table 12 displays recent trends in gross receipts to the federal government from Valley County. These receipts include rentals paid on leases for exploration purposes and also royalties paid on ongoing production in Valley County.

TABLE 12

GROSS RECEIPTS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM VALLEY COUNTY: OIL/GAS RENTALS AND ROYALTIES ($1,000's)



Source: USDI, Bureau of Land Management

SOCIAL VALUES ANALYSIS

The BLM planning system calls for review of existing social conditions in the locality in which land use planning is being completed. This section, entitled "Social Well-Being," addresses several indicators of quality of life in Valley County relative to the entire state of Montana. These factors are considered by the manager in the planning effort. If BLM management has effected, effects, or could potentially effect these local conditions, then the manager should include their consideration in his multiple use deliberations.

In addition, previous planning efforts in the Valley Planning Area have resulted in considerable feedback from the public regarding how the lands could and/or should be utilized. This section, entitled "Public Positions and Expectations," displays, for each resource activity, positions statements made by other federal and state agencies, organizations, and individuals involved in land use in the planning area.

Social Well-Being

The Valley Planning Area falls entirely in Valley County, Montana. For this reason, Valley County indicators of Social Well-Being are compared to the state as a whole in the following documentation. In several instances, there appears to be little direct relationship between management of the national resource lands in Valley County and these indicators.

The tabular presentation of Social Well-Being indicators for Valley County compared to Montana reveal that Valley County falls well below the standard for the entire state on the following factors: (1) persons per physicians, (2) rate of 1960 to 1970 population change, (3) rate of 1960 to 1970 rural population change, and (4) 1964 to 1969 change in number of farms.

Valley County compares favorably to the remainder of the state on the following indicators of Social Well-Being: (1) years of school completed, (2) overall crime rate, (3) 1964 to 1969 change in acreage area farms, (4) median family income, (5) percent of families in poverty, (6) percent of population 65 and over, (7) unemployment, (8) persons per housing unit, and (9) number of rooms per housing unit.

In terms of management of the national resource lands, it appears that efforts to reduce the rate of outmigration, particularly in the agricultural sector, would be the most

direct method of contributing to the maintenance of the existing level of Social Well-Being in Valley County. Recent population losses in the county have been quite severe. Efforts by BLM management that permit agricultural operators to continue working at a adequate profit margin are appropriate if maintenance of Social Well-Being is one of several objectives in land use management.

	Valley County	Montana	Valley County Relative to Montana	Relationship (existing-potential) to NRL management
Persons per physician - 1973	1,639	843	- Severe	Remote, unless large scale mineral or similar activities would result in a large scale population influx. Under these conditions, the existing disparity would likely be increased.
Median years of school completed - 1970	12.1	12.3	Equivalent	Remote
Overall crime rate - 1974	597	(Lowest quartile in State)	+ Excellent	Remote, unless a resource activity would result in a large scale population increase.
1960-1970 population change	-33%	+3%	- Severe	Valley County has experienced a series of "boom and bust" cycles. One objective of management could be to work toward stabilizing the population level over time.
1960-1970 rural population change	-37%	-8.6%	- Severe	Rural out-migration in Valley County is much more severe than in the rest of the state. Management objectives may include concern for enhancing the viability of operations in the agricultural sector. This would serve to stabilize the rural population level.
1964-1969 change in number of farms	-18.8%	-7.6%	- Severe	Implementation of policies in support of the rural agricultural sector would serve to assist marginal operations in surviving economically.

	Valley County	Montana	Valley County Relative to Montana	Relationship (existing-potential) to NRL management
1964-1969 change in acreage area of farms	+1.7%	+3.4%	Equivalent	Consolidation of land holdings in the private sector results in ever larger operations. Management should be aware that smaller operations are more prone toward being consumed by larger operations than are larger operations.
Median Family Income - 1970	$8,191	$8,512	Equivalent	Reduction of commodity production would adversely affect income levels within the county.
Percent of Families in poverty - 1970	+14.0	10.4	- Moderate	These figures may not adequately reflect the existing situation in Valley County. Many families in the agricultural sector are characterized by low annual income, but their capitalized worth may be quite high. In addition, some expenses falling to urban dwellers do not fall on rural residents.
Percent of Population 65+ in age - 1970	8.7	9.9	+ Good	Activities which permit young persons who desire to stay in the area and find employment could be supported.
Unemployment - 1973	7.1	7.4	Equivalent	Job producing activities would serve to further reduce the unemployment rate existing in Valley Co.
Median number of persons per housing unit - 1970	3.3	3.1	Equivalent	None, unless potential exists for resource exploitation that would result in large population influx.

	Valley County	Montana	Valley County Relative to Montana	Relationship (existing-potential) to NRL management
Median number of rooms per housing unit - 1970 (owner occupied)	5.3	5.1	Equivalent	None, unless NRL management would result in large population influx.

Public Positions and Expectations

This section is an analysis of the contents of written correspondence regarding previous and ongoing BLM planning efforts in the Valley Planning Area. Comments directed toward resource use recommendations in recreation, minerals, lands, wildlife, grazing, and watershed are included.

Examination of this information reveals that the various publics who have been involved in past planning efforts identify several conflicts or potential conflicts between land uses. For example, livestock grazing in the southern parts of the Planning Area has been identified by some groups as a hazard to vegetative and wildlife population stability.

The local manager's task is to consider the way in which various individuals, groups, and organizations view land use in the Valley Planning Area; to consider the existing and potential resource uses in the Valley Planning Area; and from these sources develop the land use plans which will guide BLM management during the next several years in the area.

Group/Individual	Land Use In General	Resource Activity Practice	Specific Management Area
State Fish and Game	Off road vehicles should be restricted to roads and trails. BLM regulations on off road vehicle travel should be stronger, especially in south Valley County.		Retain 400 acres at Tiger Butte because of historic and archaeological value. Burnt Lodge area should be proposed for wilderness classification (interim primitive area designation)
Local Agricultural Firm		Supports state/national designation of parks/monuments. Access by sportsmen is harrassment of operators. Does not generally support recreation sites as these infringe on private operators. All recreational-primitive-archaeological sites shall be considered in operator's economic impact context.	Burnt Ridge as primitive area should be judged on basis of operator's financial impact.
Local Rancher		Private sector should provide recreational stimulus.	Primitive areas should not include elimination of grazing.

Group/Individual	Land Use In General	Resource Activity Practice	Specific Management Area
State Fish and Game		Public access to lands in Valley County is adequate. Supports efforts to consolidate land status. Discourages public land sales.	Questions land exchanges along Larp Creek.
Electric Utility Company		Electric distribution lines should not be restricted.	
Glasgow Roping Club			Desires to continue leasing of 40 acres used for recreational purposes
Local Agricultural Firm		Supports consolidation with careful review. Supports sale of government land to operators where feasible.	
Chinook Rancher		Submarginal land should be sold to private sector. Telephone/powerlines are not aesthetically damaging.	
Directors of Farm Grazing Districts		Blocking efforts should be carefully planned. Utility lines are not a problem.	
State SCS	Cooperation with Grazing Districts in planning is supported.	Supports consolidation of lands.	

Group/Individual	Land Use In General	Resource Activity Practice	Specific Management Area
State Fish and Game		Direct predator control by sportsmen, trappers, and livestock owners is supported. Raptor control is not supported. Desires monitoring of acres converted from range to intensive agriculture.	Questions restoration effects on wildlife habitat.
Directors of Farm Grazing Districts	Grazing use/control enhances other uses. Endorse livestock use.	Road and trail use should be regulated. Existing fireguards should be maintained. Oppose designation of primitive areas. Gates should be put on trails as part of fencing. Predator control is supported strongly. Support AMPs being inaugerated where they have not been developed.	
DNRC - Grass Conservation Bureau	MFP had not reference to grazing districts.		
Local Agricultural Firm		Supports weed control. Supports predator control. Carrying capacity should be increased at no expense to operator.	

Group/Individual	Land Use In General	Resource Activity Practice	Specific Management Area
Local Rancher		Plans should minimize number of gates. Predator control should be stepped up on all fronts (poison, hunting, etc.). Fireguard roads are helpful and recreationally beneficial.	
Oil Operator		Wells drilled for oil and gas are bonded. BLM and surface owner should anticipate the potential tapping of dry wells for water (casing, bonding, etc.)	
Chinook Rancher	General support for livestock grazing.	Predators should be controlled.	

Group/Individual	Land Use In General	Resource Activity Practice	Specific Management Area
State Fish and Game	Livestock use inevitably conflicts with other uses.	Questions wildlife grazing on Class 8 (SCS) soils.	
	Better habitat and more wildlife is needed in Valley County.	Exploration of possible bighorn sheep plant should be jointly pursued.	
	Favors consideration of grazing restrictions in key wildlife areas.		
Local Agricultural Firm		Supports stockponds accommodating fish.	
		Re-establish 10-80 for predator control until something else/better is found.	
		Combined efforts on predator control	
Chinook Rancher		Present levels of wildlife are adequate.	

Group/Individual	Land Use In General	Resource Activity Practice	Specific Management Area
State Fish and Game		Grazing should be deferred on burned areas for two years. Drawn-down tubes in detention dams are, overall, not beneficial for wildlife unless streams are fenced.	
DNRC - Conservation Districts Division	Are recommendations acceptable to Valley Conservation District? Documentation of land status is lacking. User involvement in the planning process is essential.		
Local Agricultural Firm		Concern for leakage, seepage, and salts deposits of small reservoirs. Supports damming, ditching, erosion control, seeding, etc., to prevent erosion.	
Local Rancher		BLM should cooperate in irrigation development projects. Dirt walls on water channels should be back sloped.	
Directors of Farm Grazing Districts	BLM should cooperate in Ft. Peck irrigation projects.		

INFRASTRUCTURE

Local governments and other organizations which are responsible for providing services and facilities to individuals frequently interact with local BLM management to more effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of local residents. This section documents contacts made with officials in Valley County and the City of Glasgow regarding BLM activities in the planning area, the operations of the government entities, and potential relationships between the two.

INFRASTRUCTURE - VALLEY PLANNING AREA

VALLEY COUNTY (Conversation with Mary Lou Eide, County Clerk, March 21, 1977)

County Services

County Clerk reported that the Sheriff's Office is responsible for rural fire protection in Valley County. The county possesses seven range fire trucks. It was pointed out that expanded cooperation between BLM and Valley County in the area of range fire control is desirable. A cooperative agreement was suggested.

Roads

Road maintenance in the rural areas of Valley County is dependent upon the availability and low cost of gravel. County Clerk stated that BLM cooperation in the identification of gravel pit sites and the permitting of Valley County to use such pits is highly desirable.

County Lands

Valley County owns approximately 40,000 acres of land in the county. Roughly 90% of this land is leased to grazing districts, and the other 10% is leased to private operators. Roughly 1,000 acres per year are to be sold (under current plans).

CITY OF GLASGOW (conversation with Ramona Tow, Clerk, City of Glasgow, March 18, 1977)

Municipal Services

1. Sewage Disposal. City has an aerated $500,000 facility described as adequate for present needs. Stipulations are attached to industrial users.

2. Streets. Glasgow has two small additions without paved streets, but the residents do not desire paving.

3. Solid Waste Disposal. Glasgow has a sanitary landfill. An independent firm collects and disposes of solid wastes in the city.

4. Police Protection. Nine officers and one chief make up the Glasgow police force. It was described as "adequate."

5. Fire Protection. Fire protection is the responsibility of a volunteer fire department with 26 members. According to the City Clerk, the fire department has a good rating and good equipment (3 units).

6. Parks. Maintenance/development is the biggest problem in the city's parks program. Subdivisions are required to set aside land for parks, but the city is unable to develop these areas.

7. Recreation. The city of Glasgow has one new swimming pool and a civic center used for basketball, volleyball, and other general uses. It was described as "better than adequate."

Related Services and Facilities

1. Hospital. A 3.5 million dollar addition renovation to the hospital is to be completed January 1978.

2. Ambulance. Ambulance services are contracted through Valley County.

3. Public Transportation. Taxi cab.

4. Housing. Critical shortage of natural gas meters exists in Glasgow. The vacancy rate for housing is very low.

5. Utilities. Water and sewer.

6. Drinking Water. The city has a new well which has been tested and is in operation this year. In the past and present, there have been restrictions on lawn, yard, and garden irrigation during the summer months.

Issues

National Resource Lands in Valley County, Montana: Socio-Economic Analysis documents, describes, and presents analysis on a number of land use issues in the Valley Planning Area. This section summarizes management issues with direct social and/or economic implications.

At a very generalized level, a majority of these issues can be reduced to questions of "environmental quality" vs. "economic dependence." While few, if any, problems of NRL management are strictly "either/or" regarding this dimension, this thread does run through a number of issues in the Planning Area.

Below a more specific summary, based on public input and the foregoing analysis, is presented:

1. What should the access levels to NRL be in the Valley Planning Area? Outdoor recreationists, particularly those in off-road vehicles, have rights to use the public lands. However, use of such vehicles can be disruptive to ranching operators. Should the number of gates and fences be maximized or minimized?

2. Given the limitations of present policy, legislation, and regulations, what is the most effective way to control predators?

3. Should erosion be controlled artificially (damming, ditching, etc.) or naturally (livestock utilization measures)?

4. What are "adequate" levels of wildlife populations?

5. How can local BLM management best reduce the out-migration of rural residents, due to lack of economic opportunity, in the Valley Planning Area?

6. What levels of livestock grazing should be permitted on unstable soils in Valley County? What level of wildlife grazing is appropriate in these same areas?

PARTICIPANTS:

Gary Gerth	Valley Resource Area Manager
Loren Cabe	Montana State Office
Tad Day	Valley Resource Area
Richard DeVries	Valley Resource Area
Paul Myers	Montana State Office

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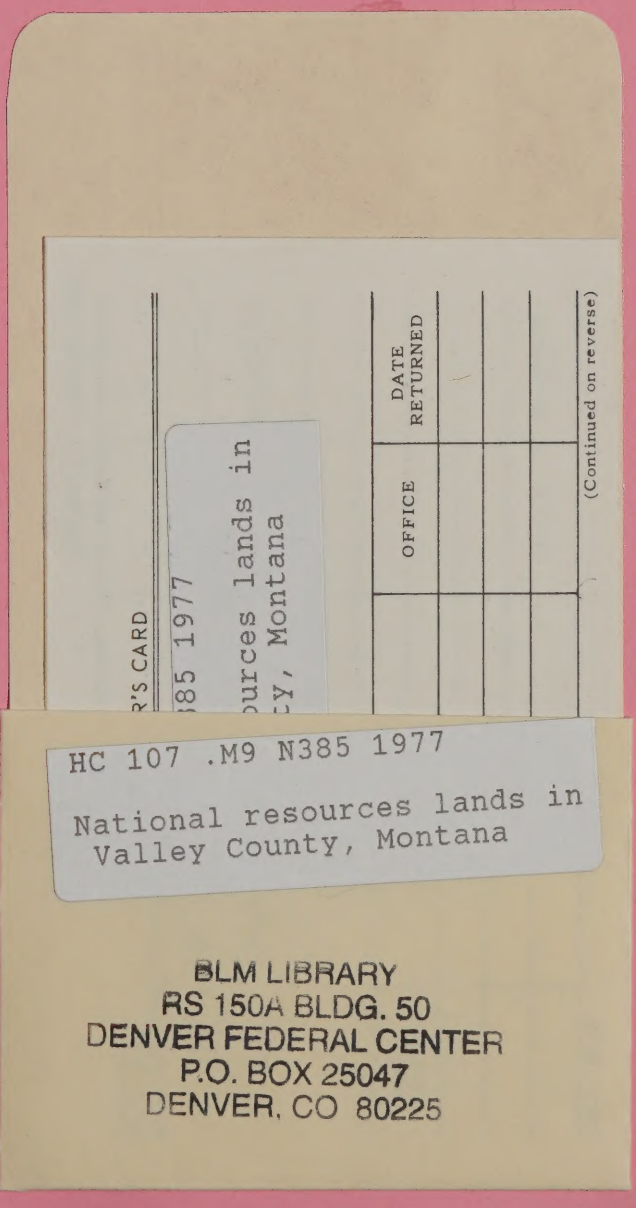

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National resources lands in Valley County, Montana

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